

## **Assembly Bill No. 245**

### **CHAPTER 18**

An act to add Section 32100.3 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health care districts, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor April 17, 2006. Filed with  
Secretary of State April 17, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 245, Berg. Trinity County Health Care District: election of board members.

Existing law provides for the formation and administration of hospital districts including provisions relating to financing through assessments and bond issuance, the appointment of the governing board, and setting forth the powers of the board, including, but not limited to, the power to enter into contract for equipping, staffing, and operating hospitals.

This bill would, notwithstanding those provisions, require election at large of the board of directors of a health care district formed in the County of Trinity, would set the terms of those members, and would provide for the filling of vacancies.

This bill would make certain findings and declarations regarding the inapplicability of a general statute within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 32100.3 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

32100.3. (a) Notwithstanding Section 32100, the members of the first board of directors of a health care district formed, after the effective date of the act that added this section, in the County of Trinity shall be elected at large.

(b) At their first meeting, the members of the directors shall classify themselves by lot into two classes. One class shall have three members and the other class shall have two members. For the class that has three members, the initial term of office shall be four years. For the class that has two members, the initial term of office shall be two years. Thereafter, the term of office of all members shall be four years.

(c) Any vacancies in the office of a member elected to the board of directors shall be filled pursuant to Section 1780 of the Government Code.

SEC. 2. (a) Due to the unique circumstances concerning the County of Trinity, it is necessary that a hospital district board members be elected through a direct election in that county, and the Legislature finds and declares that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares that, in 2004, the County of Trinity faced severe fiscal problems with the continued operation of the Trinity Hospital. The Legislature responded by enacting Chapter 930 of the Statutes of 2004 to allow the Trinity Public Utility District to exercise the powers of a health care district. Since then, local residents and officials have proposed the formation of a new health care district in the County of Trinity that would have a directly elected board of directors. Because the Local Health Care District Law (Division 23 (commencing with Section 32000)) of the Health and Safety Code, does not permit the initial board of directors of a newly formed health care district to be directly elected, it is necessary for the Legislature to enact a special act which allows for the direct election of that board of directors.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

The potential financial and instructional collapse of the Trinity Hospital poses a serious threat to the public health and safety of the residents of Trinity County. An election to form a new health care district in the County of Trinity may be held in November 2006. The newly formed health care district would assume the responsibility for the Trinity Hospital to protect Trinity County's residents' public health and safety. In order to allow local voters to directly elect the health care district's initial board of directors at the earliest possible time it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.